

REMARKS

The present application was filed on December 1, 1998 with claims 1 through 28. Claims 29 through 35 were added in the Amendment and Response to Office Action dated June 14, 2004. Claims 1 through 35 are presently pending in the above-identified patent application. Claims 1, 4, 11, 19, 25, and 28 are proposed to be amended
5 herein.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that claims 29-35 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed and have been withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner objected to claims 4, 11, 19, 25,
10 and 28 due to indicated informalities and rejected claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 22, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner rejected claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being non-statutory. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over
15 Freeman et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,006,227) in view of Bohannon et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,125,371) and in view of Allard et al. (United States Patent 5,991,802). Applicant assumes the Examiner meant to reject claims 1-28 in the above rejection since the Examiner addresses all 28 claims under the rejection of claims 1-3.

Election by Original Presentation

The Examiner asserts that claims 29-35 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed and have been withdrawn from consideration. In particular, the Examiner asserts that there is nothing in independent claim 29 relating to an electronic document having multiple versions, a creation time-stamp, and a domain name associated with the time-stamp.
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Applicant notes that claim 29 requires receiving a request for said electronic document, said request including a requested time-stamp and a domain name, wherein said *domain name is associated with a first domain for a first time period and a second domain for a second time period; and identifying one of said first domain or said second domain utilizing a time indicated by said time-stamp.* Therefore, independent
25 claim 29 requires a domain name that is associated with a time-stamp, as is required in
30 one or more of claims 1-28. Thus, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, independent

claim 29 is related to a domain name associated with the time-stamp and is *not* an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the withdrawal of claims 29-35 and the consideration of the patentability of such claims in the present application.

Formal Objections

Claims 4, 11, 19, 25, and 28 were objected to due to indicated informalities. In particular, the Examiner notes that the cited claims recite “time stamp” and that other claims recite “time-stamp.”

Claims 4, 11, 19, 25, and 28 have been amended to address the Examiner’s concerns and Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to the cited claims be withdrawn.

Section 112 Rejections

Claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 22, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding claim 1 (and claims 16 and 22), the Examiner asserts that “it is unclear where Applicant’s step is in the claim for the ‘creation time-stamp,’” and that there appears to be a step missing. Regarding claim 8 (and claims 15 and 22), the Examiner asserts that the claim limitation “...receive a request for said electronic document, said request including a requested time-stamp indicating a time associated with a desired version of said electronic document and a domain name associated with said time-stamp” is very unclear as written.

Applicant notes that claim 1 is directed to a method for providing an electronic document and refers to both a creation time-stamp and a requested time-stamp. The versions of the electronic document are identified by a creation time-stamp, which is created *prior* to the utilization of the method for providing the electronic document. Thus, the method of claim 1 should not include the step of creating the “creation time-stamp.”

Similarly, the requested time-stamp is created when the request is formulated. For example, a web browser may request an electronic document with a certain time-stamp. The creation of the request and the creation of the “requested time-

stamp” occurs *prior* to the utilization of the method for providing the electronic document. Thus, the method of claim 1 should not include the step of creating the “requested time-stamp.” A similar rationale applies to claims 16 and 22.

Applicants maintain that the limitation cited in claim 8 (and claims 15 and 22) is clear as written. The cited limitation requires receiving a request for an electronic document. The request includes a requested time-stamp indicating a time associated with a desired version of the electronic document. This is supported in the originally filed specification, for example, on page 3, lines 3-11. The request also includes a domain name associated with the time-stamp. This is supported in the originally filed specification, for example, on page 3, lines 12-18. Applicant does not read any portion of the limitation to be unclear.

Section 101 Rejections

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being non-statutory. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the method claims as presented do not claim a technological basis in the body of the claim and that the technology is simply implied (that there is an electronic document), but nothing is being done with the document in respect to a machine processing the document.

Claim 1 has been amended to require that the electronic document identified by an address is *stored on a server*. Applicant believes that the structural/functional interrelationship of the server meets the requirements under 35 U.S.C. §101 and Applicant respectfully requests that the section 101 rejections be withdrawn.

Independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 22 and 28

Independent claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 22, and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman et al. in view of Bohannon et al., and in view of Allard et al.

Regarding claim 1, the Examiner initially asserts that Freeman teaches the step of receiving a request for the electronic document, the request including a requested time-stamp indicating a time associated with a desired version of the electronic document and a domain name associated with said time-stamp (col. 3, lines 61-67, and col. 4, lines 18-22; FIG. 7 shows a domain name and a time-stamp).

The Examiner thereafter acknowledges that Freeman does *not* teach the step of identifying as a function of the creation time-stamp and the requested time-stamp storing a version of the electronic document having a creation time corresponding to the requested time-stamp, but asserts that Bohannon teaches this limitation at col. 5, lines 35-47.

Freeman / Bohannon Do Not Show A Time-Stamp In A Request

Freeman et al. is directed to an operating system in which documents are stored in a chronologically ordered "stream." As each document is presented to the operating system, the document is placed according to a time indicator in the sequence of documents already stored relative to the time indicators of the stored documents. Col. 1, lines 4-10. It is an express object of Freeman et al. to provide "an operating system in which the location and nature of file storage is *transparent to the user*, for example, the storage of the files is handled automatically **and file names are only used if a user chooses to invent such names.**" Even when a user does choose to "invent" file names, Freeman et al. does not disclose or suggest how such file names are used to retrieve documents or whether a request for such documents includes the file name and the time indication.

Bohannon et al. is directed to a database management system, and in particular, to techniques for aging versions of data records for deletion purposes to increase memory capacity. While Bohannon assigns time stamps to data records in a database, it is for the purpose of deleting records having multiple versions in response to the time stamp. The time stamping appears to be an internal, transparent process initiated by the Bohannon system upon an update to an existing data record. There is no suggestion that such time stamps are even provided or known to the user and there certainly is no suggestion that such time stamps are employed in a request for a data record to identify a particular version.

By contrast, Applicant's amended independent claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 22, and 28 require receiving a request for an electronic document that includes a time-stamp indicating a *creation time* of a desired version of a multiple-version document and require identifying an address of said version of said electronic document corresponding to said requested time-stamp as a function of said requested time-stamp and said domain name,

or transmitting an indication of said identified machine corresponding to the requested time-stamp.

Thus, Freeman and Bohannon, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest receiving a request for an electronic document that includes a time-stamp
 5 indicating a creation time of a desired version of a multiple-version document and identifying an address of said version of said electronic document corresponding to said requested time-stamp as a function of said requested time-stamp and said domain name, or transmitting an indication of said identified machine corresponding to the requested time-stamp, as required by independent claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 22, and 28, as amended.

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Freeman/Bohannon Do Not Enable Requesting a Particular Document
 Corresponding to a Specific Time

Freeman defines a "stream" as a "time-ordered sequence of documents that functions as a diary of a person or an entity's electronic life. Every document created
 15 and every document sent to a person or entity is stored in a main stream." Col. 4, lines 6-10. Freeman also teaches that "substreams, unlike conventional, virtual or fixed directories which only list filenames, present the user with a stream 'view' of a document collection. This view, according to Freeman, contains all documents that are relevant to the search query. Also, unlike searches of conventional fixed directories, the substream is
 20 generated by default from all the documents in the main stream." Col. 4, lines 51-58. Thus, Freeman teaches that streams and substreams contain many different documents. Freeman does not disclose or suggest that a mainstream or substream contain only different versions of the same document. Therefore, when a request for a document is made from a mainstream or substream utilizing the scroll bar 20, a request for a
 25 *particular* document cannot be made, but only a request for *any* document at a specific time can be made. Independent claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 22, and 28, as amended, require receiving a request for *said electronic document*, said request including a requested time-stamp indicating a time associated with a desired version of said electronic document.

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Person Of Ordinary Skill Would Not Look To Freeman Or Bohannon

As indicated in the Background section of Freeman et al., Freeman et al. expressly "**teaches away**" from conventional operating systems where a "file must be

‘named’ when created and often a location in which to store the file must be indicated resulting in unneeded overhead.” Col. 1, lines 40-44. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art of the present invention would not look to Freeman et al. for a solution to the problem of supplementing an address (or file name) so that it differentiates versions of a multiple version document. The present invention, on the other hand, extends conventional file naming or addressing schemes (where an electronic document is identified using a file name or address) to include the *time stamp* that differentiates various versions of the document.

Similarly, Bohannon et al. is directed to the non-analogous field of a database management system that employs techniques for *aging* versions of data records for *deletion* purposes to increase memory capacity. The present invention is not interested in deleting any version of a multiple version document, but rather, in maintaining such multiple versions and making them accessible to a user. The present invention provides a convenient mechanism to uniquely identify a particular one of such multiple versions. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art of the present invention would not look to Bohannon et al. for a solution to the problem of supplementing an address (or file name) so that it differentiates versions of a multiple version document.

Thus, Freeman et al. and Bohannon et al. (alone or in any combination) do not suggest or disclose receiving a request for said electronic document, said request including a requested time-stamp indicating a time associated with a desired version of said electronic document, as required by independent claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 22, and 28, as amended.

Additional Cited References

Allard et al. were also cited by the Examiner for its disclosure that the Uniform Resource Locator (“URL”) has an associated request header for indicating said requested time stamp (a request header; col. 1, lines 50-60).

Applicant notes that Allard is directed to a “method and system for invoking by a client computer a function of an object of an object class” (see, Abstract). Allard does not address the issue of requesting electronic documents utilizing a time-stamp indicating a time associated with a desired version of the electronic document.

Thus, Allard et al. do not suggest or disclose receiving a request for said electronic document, said request including a requested time-stamp indicating a time associated with a desired version of said electronic document, as required by independent claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 22, and 28, as amended.

Dependent Claims 2-7, 9-14, 17-21, 23-27 and 30-35

Dependent claims 2-7, 9-14, 17-21 and 23-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Freeman et al. in view of Bohannon et al., and in view of Allard et al.

Claims 2-7, 9-14, 17-21, 23-27, and 30-35, are dependent on claims 1, 8, 16, 22, and 29, respectively, and are therefore patentably distinguished over Freeman et al., Bohannon et al., and Allard et al. (alone or in any combination) because of their dependency from amended independent claims 1, 8, 16, 22, and 29 for the reasons set forth above, as well as other elements these claims add in combination to their base claim.

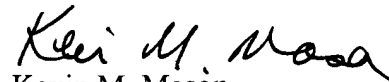
In view of the foregoing, the invention, as claimed in claims 1 through 35, cannot be said to be either taught or suggested by Freeman et al., Bohannon et al., and Allard et al., alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 through 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

All of the pending claims, i.e., claims 1 through 35, are in condition for allowance and such favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If any outstanding issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

The Examiner's attention to this matter is appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,



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